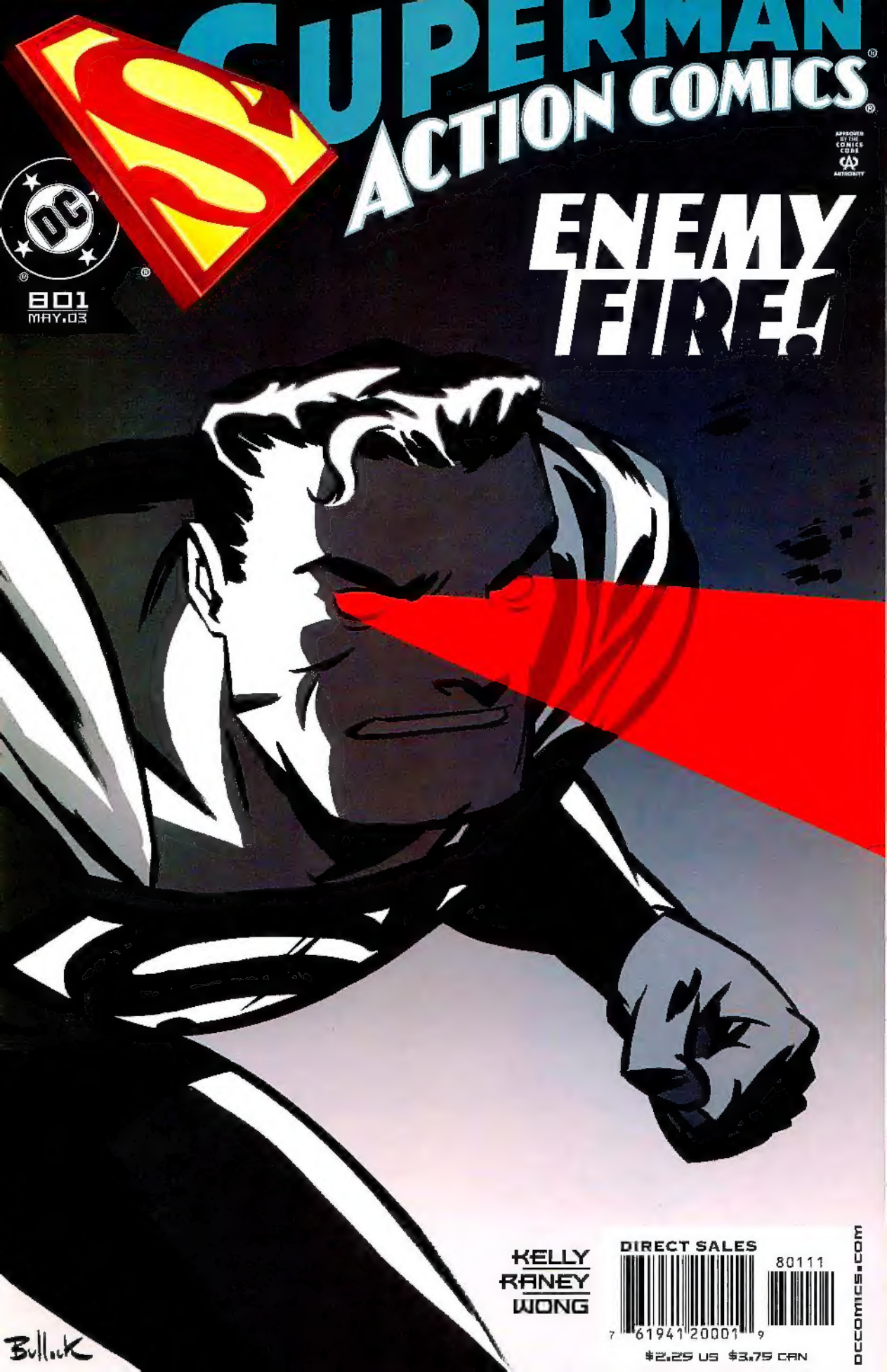
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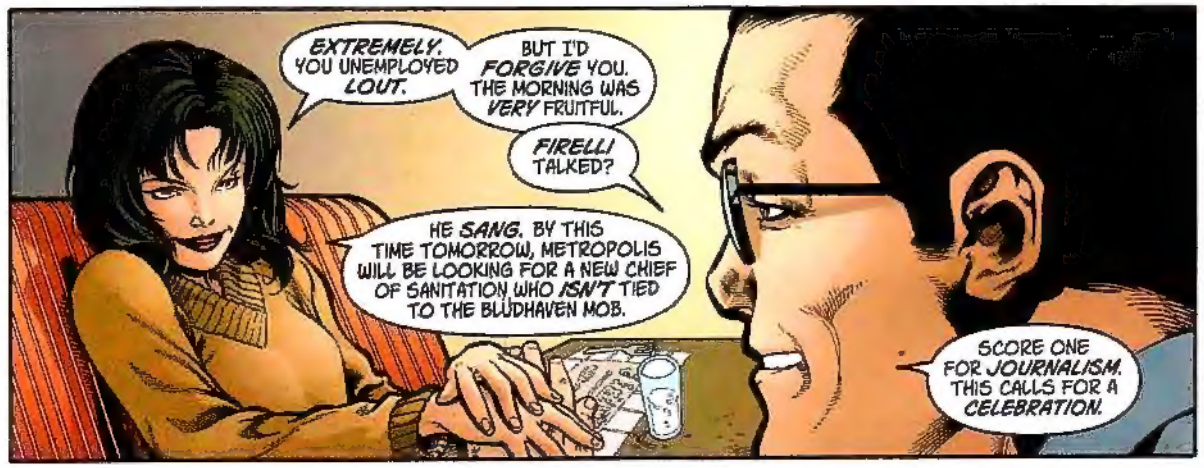
Bullock

LITTLE FALLS, COLORADO.
8:47 A.M. MOUNTAIN TIME.
YOU LIKE IT, THOUGH. RIGHT? THE KIDS ARE NICE HERE AND THE TEACHERS TOO?
THEY HAVE PIZZA FOR SNACK.
WOW. HEALTHY, HUH?
YEAH. AND COOKIES. I THINK THEY'RE HEALTHY. THEY HAVE CHOCOLATE.
SOUNDS PERFECT. OKAY, KISS ME AND BE GOOD.
I WILL -- HEY, LOOK, MOM! UP IN THE SKY!
WHAT IS IT? OH, A BIRD?
I THINK IT'S--
NO, THAT'S A PLANE OR SOMETHING...
NO! IT'S--

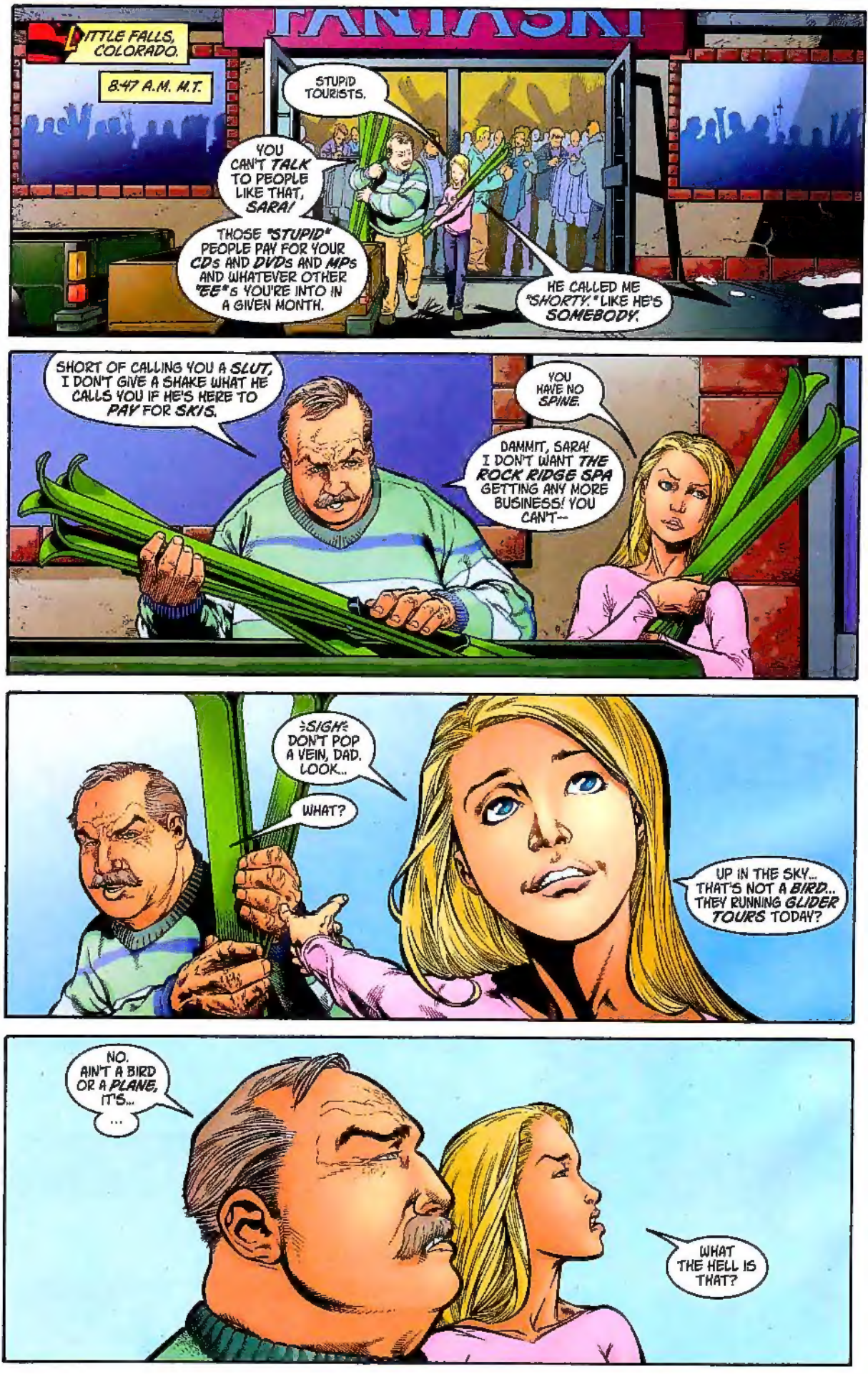
METROPOLIS.
10:40 A.M. EASTERN TIME.
YOU WANT TO GO TO SLEEP AFTER THIS? YOU MUST BE DEAD TIRED.

WITH A NOON STAFF MEETING ON DECK? I DON'T THINK SO, CLARK.
I'LL STICK IT OUT AND WE CAN CRASH UNDER MY DESK AFTERWARDS.
WOULD IT BE VERY INSENSITIVE OF ME TO POINT OUT THAT I NO LONGER NEED TO ATTEND PERRY'S WEEKLY "PEP-TALKS"?


EXTREMELY. YOU UNEMPLOYED LOUT.
BUT I'D FORGIVE YOU. THE MORNING WAS VERY FRUITFUL.
FIRELLI TALKED?
HE SANG. BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, METROPOLIS WILL BE LOOKING FOR A NEW CHIEF OF SANITATION WHO ISN'T TIED TO THE BLUDHAVEN MOB.
SCORE ONE FOR JOURNALISM. THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION.

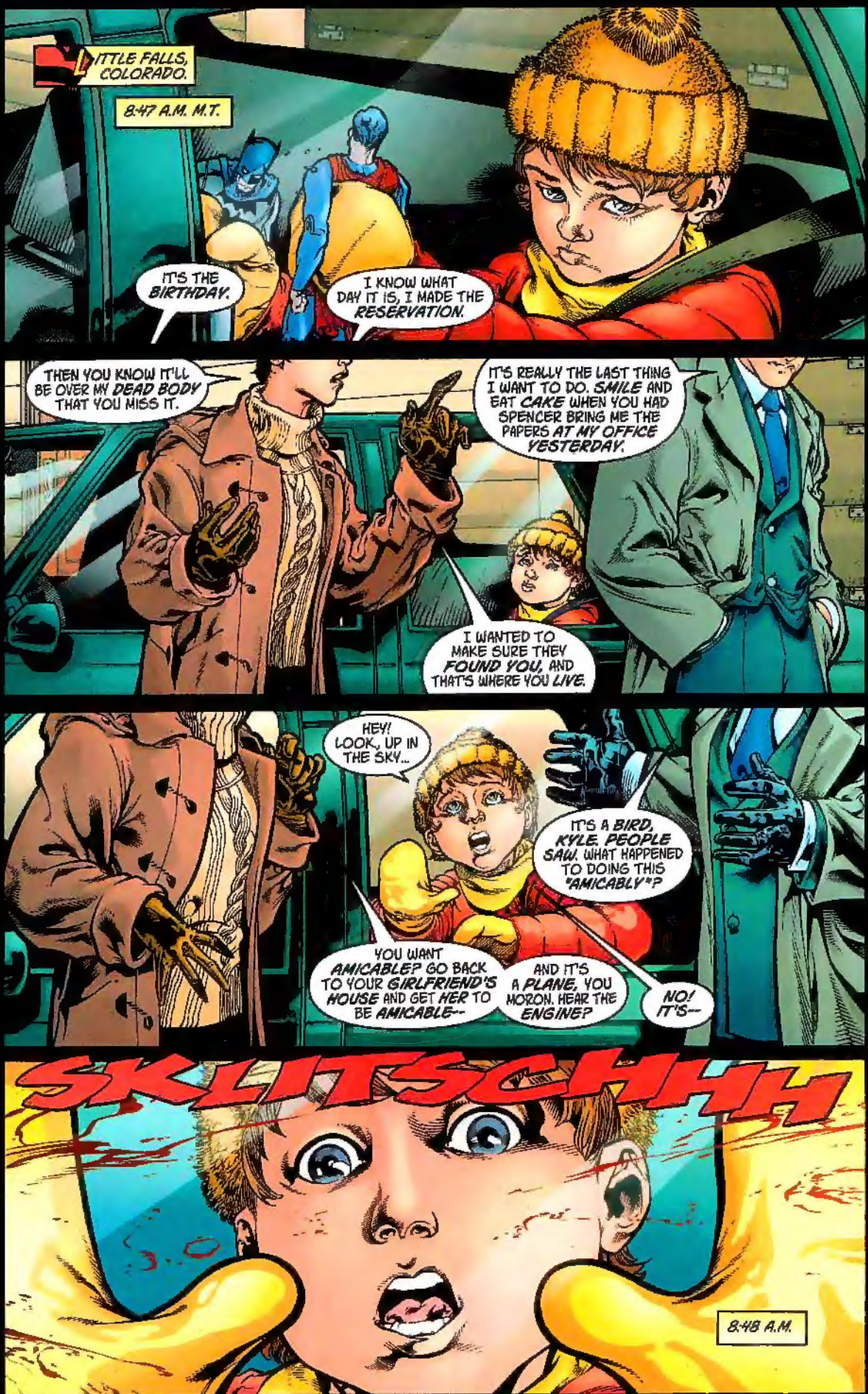
HMM. WHAT A NICE IDEA... AND ME WITH AN HOUR TO KILL—
CHECK!

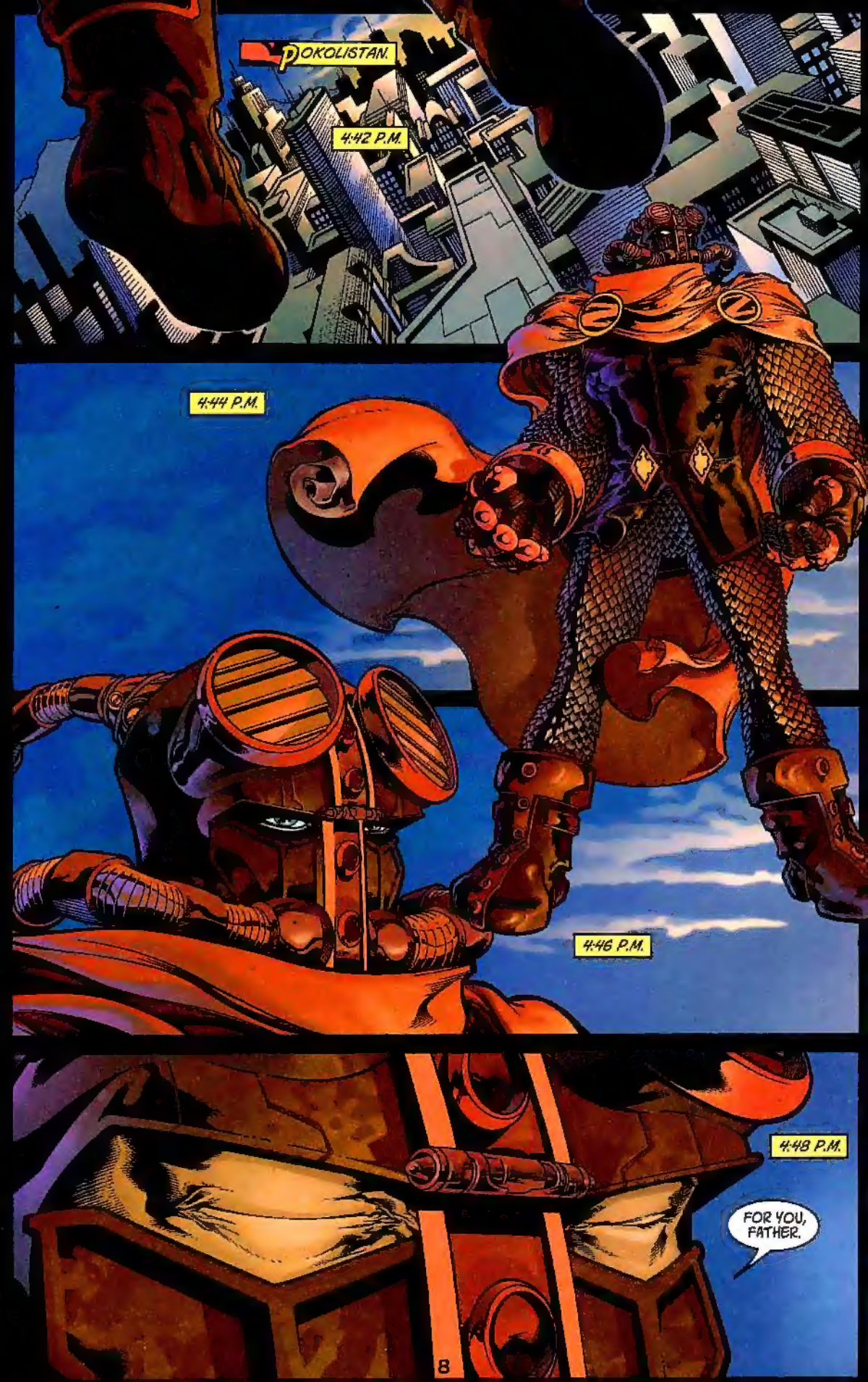
LKK... UH INNA SKY...
SUPERMAN!
THAT'S WHAT MY GIRLFRIEND CALLS ME, BUT NEVER IN PUBLIC.
OH... EMMMBARRASSING... I... DREAM.
HAPPENS SOMETIMES WHEN YOU FINALLY LET YOURSELF SLEEP, TRACI.
HSSSKRT
YOUR FATHER'S JUST IN X-RAY FOR THE LAST ROUND ON HIS CHEST. HE'LL BE DOWN IN A FEW MINUTES, AND YOU MAY EVEN GET TO TAKE HIM HOME.
GREAT. THAT'S GREAT...
WASHINGTON, D.C.
10:40 A.M. EASTERN TIME.


LITTLE FALLS, COLORADO.
8:47 A.M. M.T.
STUPID TOURISTS.
YOU CAN'T TALK TO PEOPLE LIKE THAT, SARA!
THOSE "STUPID" PEOPLE PAY FOR YOUR CDs AND DVDs AND MPs AND WHATEVER OTHER "EE"s YOU'RE INTO IN A GIVEN MONTH.
HE CALLED ME "SHORTY." LIKE HE'S SOMEBODY.
SHORT OF CALLING YOU A SLUT, I DON'T GIVE A SHAKE WHAT HE CALLS YOU IF HE'S HERE TO PAY FOR SKIS.
YOU HAVE NO SPINE.
DAMMIT, SARA! I DON'T WANT THE ROCK RIDGE SPA GETTING ANY MORE BUSINESS! YOU CAN'T--
=SIGH= DON'T POP A VEIN, DAD. LOOK...
WHAT?
UP IN THE SKY... THAT'S NOT A BIRD.. THEY RUNNING GLIDER TOURS TODAY?
NO. AIN'T A BIRD OR A PLANE, IT'S... ...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

METROPOLIS.
10:43 A.M. E.T.
SO HE'S GOING TO BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SOON?
CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. I'LL HEAD DOWN TO D.C. IN A FEW DAYS TO SEE HOW THEY ARE.
I THINK I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON MISS "TRACI THIRTEEN--"
IT HAS BEEN UNLEASHED!
FALL TO YOUR KNEES AND BE SAVED!
MAKE YOUR PEACE WITH GOD TODAY, FOR TOMORROW THERE WILL BE ONLY PAIN!
HEAVEN OR HELL IF YOU DIED TO DAY WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
IT DOESN'T ALL HAVE TO BE PAIN, MISTER. JUST LOOK AROUND--
--AHEM -- HE'S NOT TALKING TO YOU, SMALLVILLE. AND THE CLOCK IS TICKING...
KEEP IT UP, PAL. YOU'RE GONNA BE RIGHT ONE OF THESE DAYS...
LOIS, COME ON. HE'S A HUMAN BEING. THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS TALK TO HIM.
GOOD LORD, CLARK -- HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN A CITY?

BIALYA.
6:47 P.M. LOCAL TIME.
--OFF TO A GREAT START! COMING UP ON NINE A.M.--
--APPROACHING THE TOP OF THE HOUR--
CNN
--NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY THIS MORNING--
--HEH, SLOW NEWS DAY, I GUESS. OVER TO YOU, JANE!--
6


LITTLE FALLS, COLORADO.
8:47 A.M. M.T.
IT'S THE BIRTHDAY.
I KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS, I MADE THE RESERVATION.
THEN YOU KNOW IT'LL BE OVER MY DEAD BODY THAT YOU MISS IT.
IT'S REALLY THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO. SMILE AND EAT CAKE WHEN YOU HAD SPENCER BRING ME THE PAPERS AT MY OFFICE YESTERDAY.
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THEY FOUND YOU, AND THAT'S WHERE YOU LIVE.
HEY! LOOK, UP IN THE SKY...
IT'S A BIRD, KYLE. PEOPLE SAW. WHAT HAPPENED TO DOING THIS "AMICABLY"?
YOU WANT AMICABLE? GO BACK TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE AND GET HER TO BE AMICABLE--
AND IT'S A PLANE, YOU MORON. HEAR THE ENGINE?
NO! IT'S--
SKLITSCHHH
8:48 A.M.

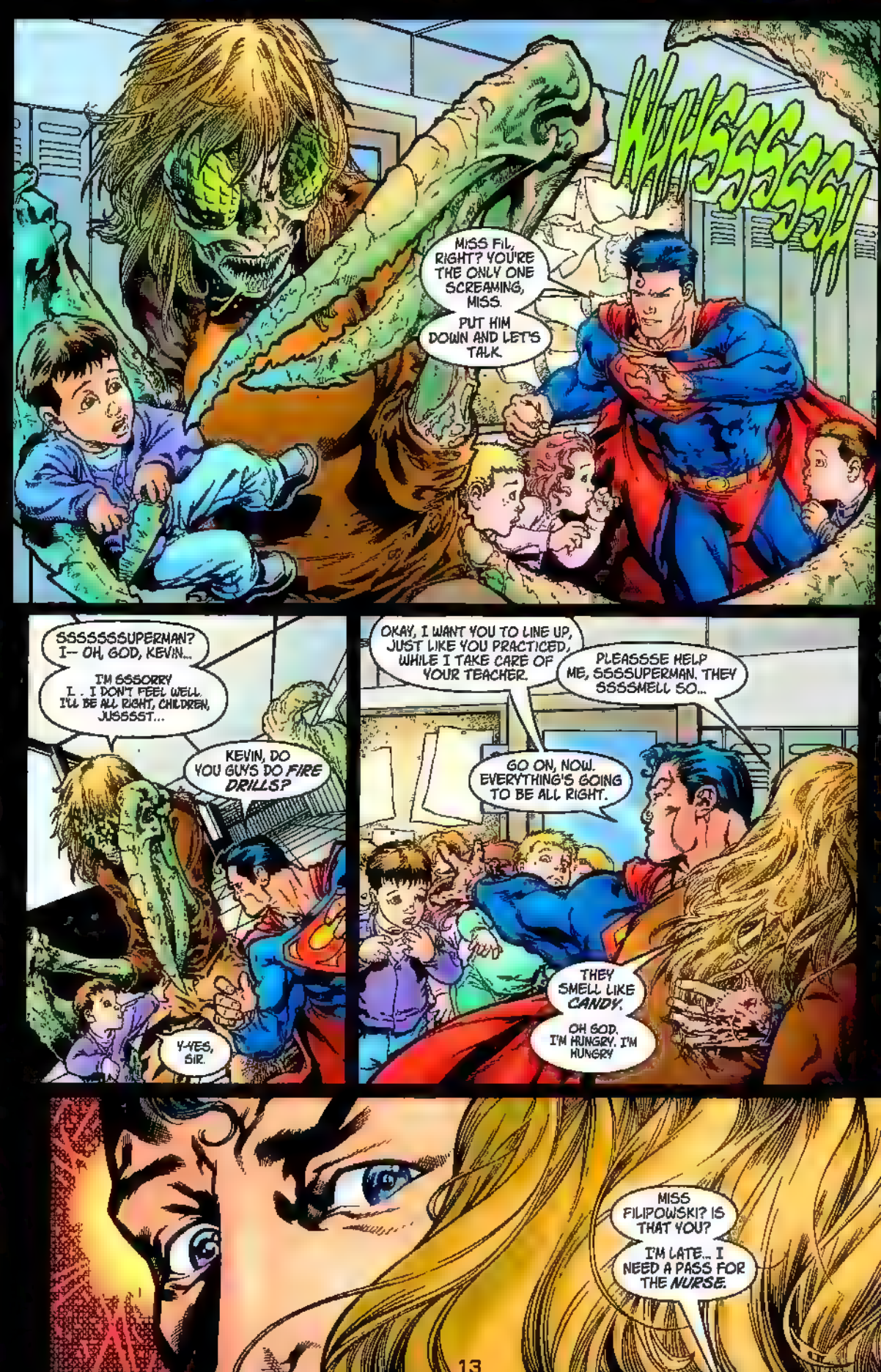

DOKOLISTAN.
4:42 P.M.
4:44 P.M.
4:46 P.M.
4:48 P.M.
FOR YOU, FATHER.

METROPOLIS.
10:48 A.M.
I'M PUTTING ON COFFEE.
I'D USE SUPER-SPEED, IF I WERE YOU... OTHERWISE I'M GOING TO FALL ASLEEP.
KSSSSH
DEAR GOD.
10:50 A.M.

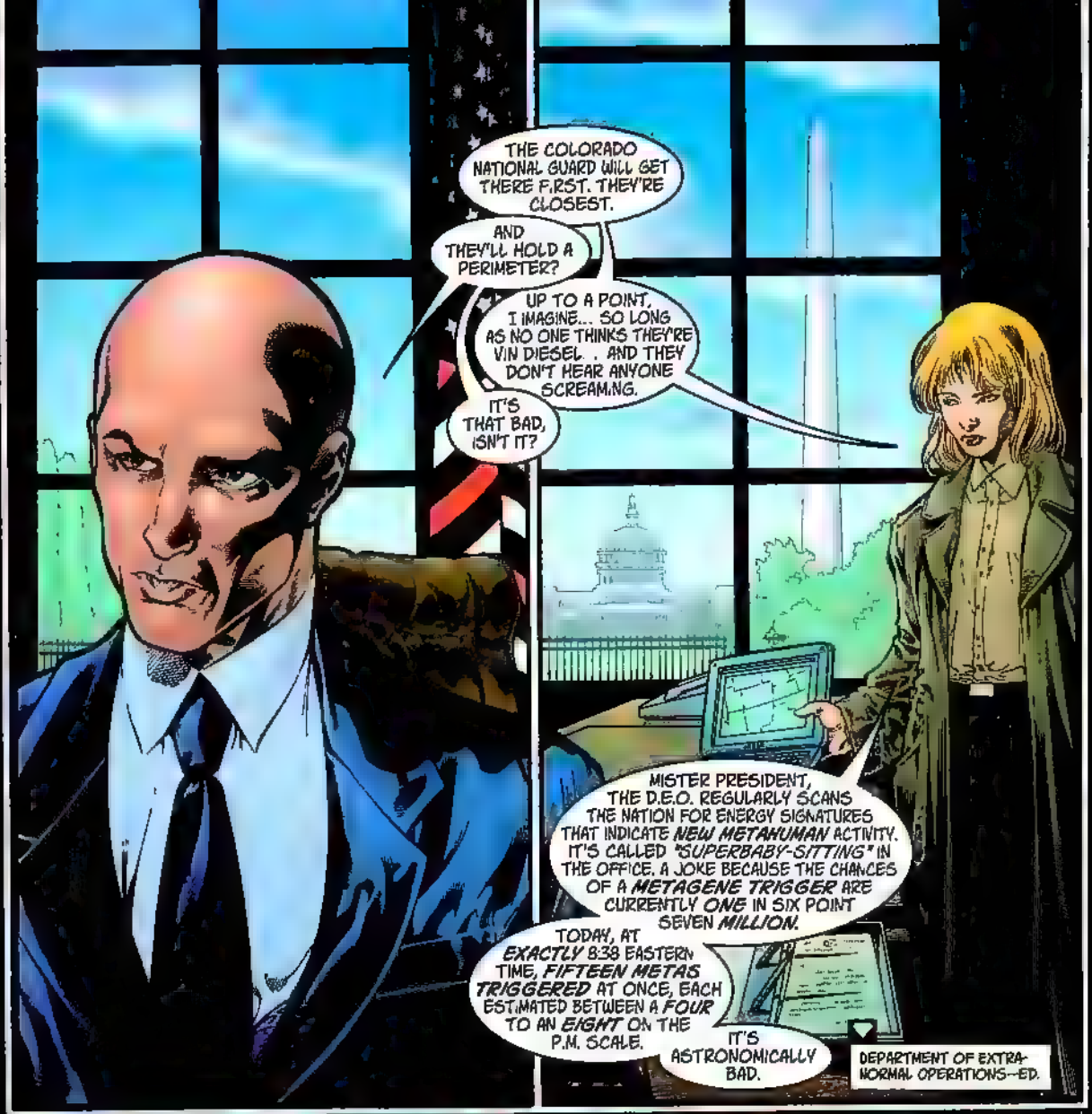
LITTLE FALLS, COLORADO.
8:50 A.M.

KNNGH... NO...
GOD, N-NO. NOT NEAR TH-THE CHILDREN.
NO!
SHAZZZZAKAK
STOP IT.

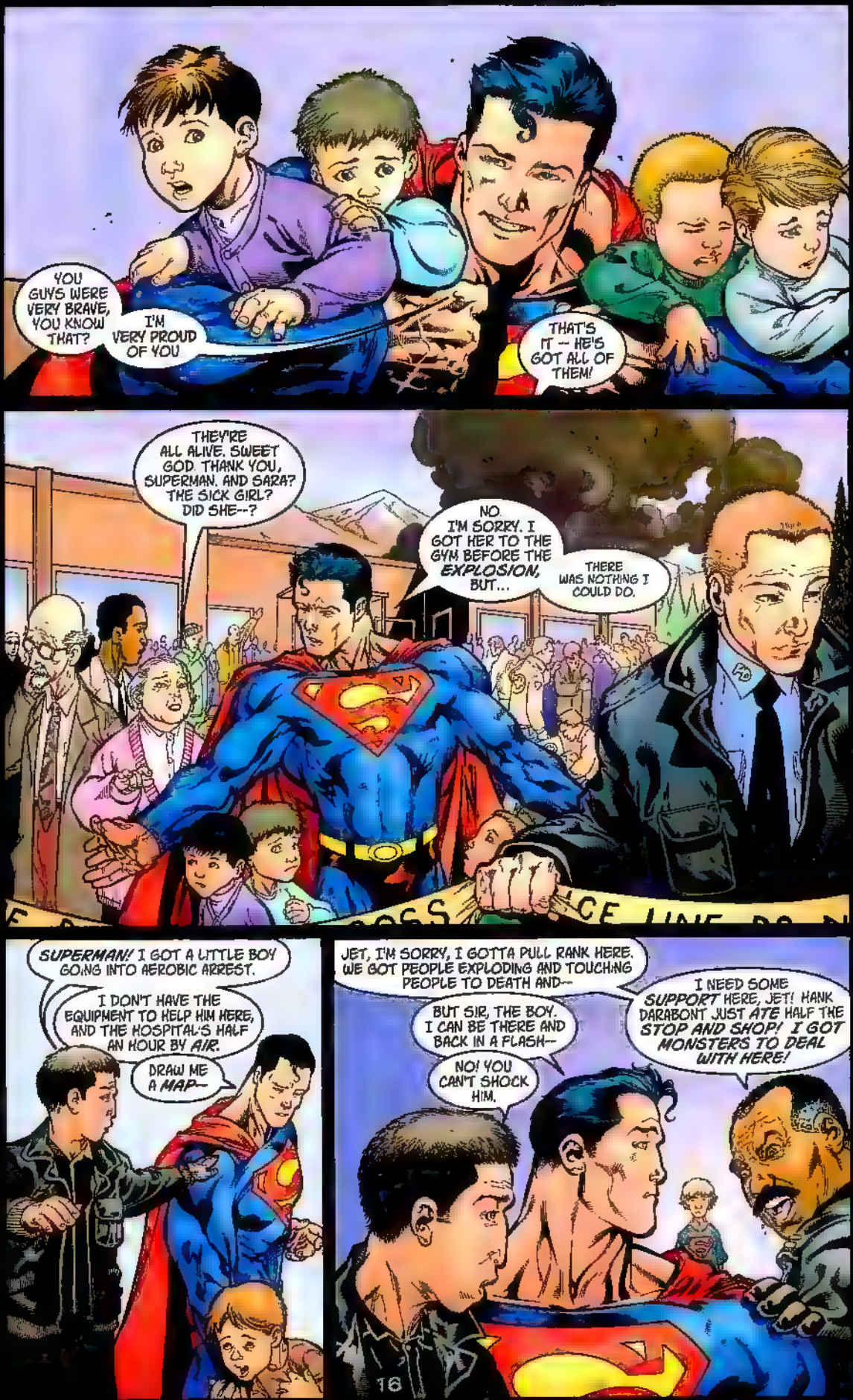
MISS FIL! MISS FIL! DID YOU SEE!? SUPERMAN SAVED US! SUPERMAN!
MISS FIL?
K-KEVIN... I--
UNNNNH.
DON'T... DON'T LOOK AT ME... I--
PLEASE, CHILDREN, SSSSSIT DOWN.. EVERYTHING WILL BE.... EVERYTHING...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT. PLEASE, LET'SSSSS LINE UP--
SSSSSSTOP SSSSSSCREAMING...
SSSSSTOP.
I SSSSAID STOP SSSSCREAMING!


WHSSSSSH
MISS FIL, RIGHT? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SCREAMING, MISS.
PUT HIM DOWN AND LET'S TALK.
SSSSSSSUPERMAN? I— OH, GOD, KEVIN...
I'M SSSORRY I.. I DON'T FEEL WELL. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN, JUSSSST...
KEVIN, DO YOU GUYS DO FIRE DRILLS?
Y-YES, SIR.
OKAY, I WANT YOU TO LINE UP, JUST LIKE YOU PRACTICED, WHILE I TAKE CARE OF YOUR TEACHER.
PLEASSSE HELP ME, SSSSUPERMAN. THEY SSSSMELL SO...
GO ON, NOW. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
THEY SMELL LIKE CANDY.
OH GOD. I'M HUNGRY. I'M HUNGRY
MISS FILIPOWSKI? IS THAT YOU?
I'M LATE... I NEED A PASS FOR THE NURSE.

I DON'T FEEL WELL.
NEITHER DOES DADDY. HE HAS NO SPINE.
TOO MANY STUPID TOURISTS. THEY CARRY BUGS WITH THEM ALL THE TIME.
I HAVE TO SNEEZE.
NO!
KA-BOOM

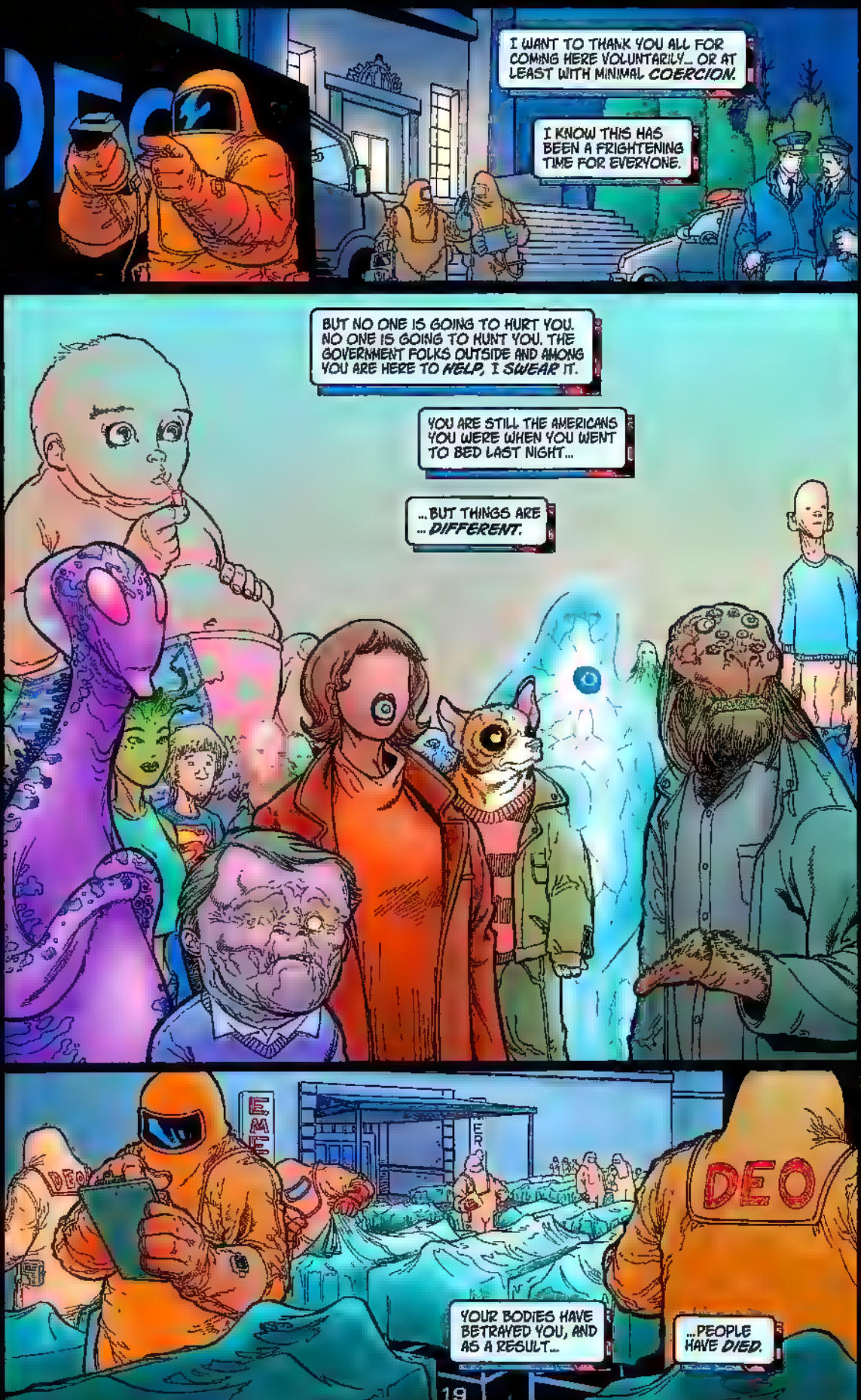

THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD WILL GET THERE FIRST. THEY'RE CLOSEST.
AND THEY'LL HOLD A PERIMETER?
UP TO A POINT, I IMAGINE... SO LONG AS NO ONE THINKS THEY'RE VIN DIESEL . AND THEY DON'T HEAR ANYONE SCREAMING.
IT'S THAT BAD, ISN'T IT?
MISTER PRESIDENT, THE D.E.O. REGULARLY SCANS THE NATION FOR ENERGY SIGNATURES THAT INDICATE NEW METAHUMAN ACTIVITY. IT'S CALLED "SUPERBABY-SITTING" IN THE OFFICE. A JOKE BECAUSE THE CHANCES OF A METAGENE TRIGGER ARE CURRENTLY ONE IN SIX POINT SEVEN MILLION.
TODAY, AT EXACTLY 8:38 EASTERN TIME, FIFTEEN METAS TRIGGERED AT ONCE, EACH ESTIMATED BETWEEN A FOUR TO AN EIGHT ON THE P.M. SCALE.
IT'S ASTRONOMICALLY BAD.
DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS--ED.

THE CAUSE? NATURAL? SUPERNATURAL?
AGENT CHASE, IS THE UNITED STATES UNDER ATTACK?
...
I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU CONSIDER MOVING TO A MORE SECURE LOCATION.


YOU GUYS WERE VERY BRAVE, YOU KNOW THAT?
I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU
THAT'S IT -- HE'S GOT ALL OF THEM!
THEY'RE ALL ALIVE. SWEET GOD. THANK YOU, SUPERMAN. AND SARA? THE SICK GIRL? DID SHE--?
NO. I'M SORRY. I GOT HER TO THE GYM BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, BUT...
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
SUPERMAN! I GOT A LITTLE BOY GOING INTO AEROBIC ARREST.
I DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO HELP HIM HERE, AND THE HOSPITAL'S HALF AN HOUR BY AIR.
DRAW ME A MAP--
JET, I'M SORRY, I GOTTA PULL RANK HERE. WE GOT PEOPLE EXPLODING AND TOUCHING PEOPLE TO DEATH AND--
BUT SIR, THE BOY. I CAN BE THERE AND BACK IN A FLASH--
NO! YOU CAN'T SHOCK HIM.
I NEED SOME SUPPORT HERE, JET! HANK DARABONT JUST ATE HALF THE STOP AND SHOP! I GOT MONSTERS TO DEAL WITH HERE!

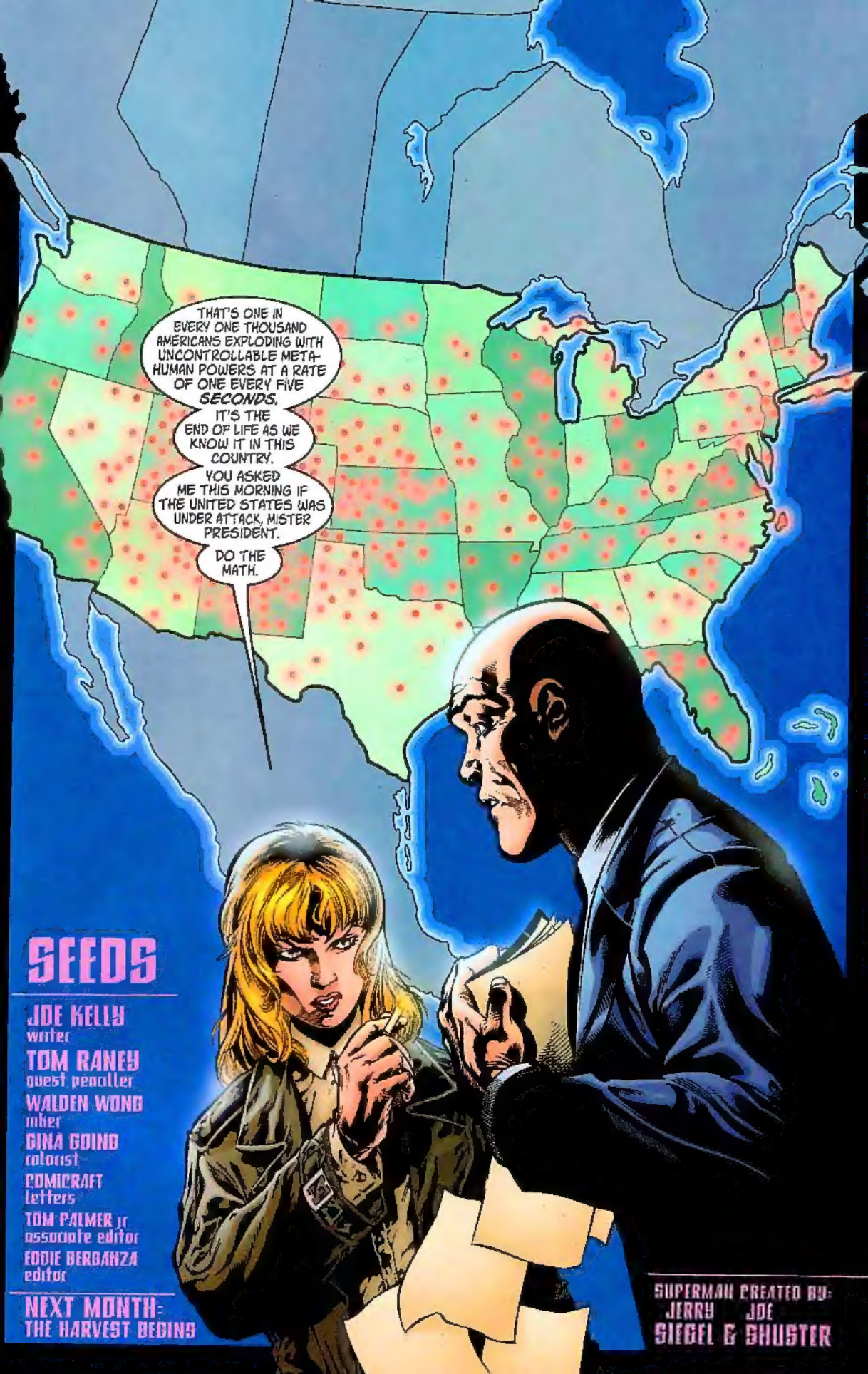
'SCUSE ME. I -- AHEM --
GET OUT OF HERE, CHUCK!
NO, I CAN --
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE IN A CRISIS HERE?! JEEZ --
I THINK I CAN HELP.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CHUCK. CHARLES. CHARLIE
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THOSE TH.NGS?
NO. SORT OF. I ONLY HAD THEM FOR HALF AN HOUR.
BUT I CAN FLY.
I WON'T MESS UP. I JUST WANT TO HELP
I'M NOT A MONSTER.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT...

"...YOU'RE A HERO, SON."
THERE ARE NO MONSTERS HERE.
RIGHT. OKAY...
SORRY. WHAT DO WE DO?
WE HELP OUR NEIGHBORS.
AND PRAYING PROBABLY WOULDN'T HURT EITHER.


I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE VOLUNTARILY... OR AT LEAST WITH MINIMAL COERCION.
I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A FRIGHTENING TIME FOR EVERYONE.
BUT NO ONE IS GOING TO HURT YOU. NO ONE IS GOING TO HUNT YOU. THE GOVERNMENT FOLKS OUTSIDE AND AMONG YOU ARE HERE TO HELP, I SWEAR IT.
YOU ARE STILL THE AMERICANS YOU WERE WHEN YOU WENT TO BED LAST NIGHT...
...BUT THINGS ARE ...DIFFERENT.
DEO
DEO
YOUR BODIES HAVE BETRAYED YOU, AND AS A RESULT...
...PEOPLE HAVE DIED.

THOSE AMONG YOU WHO CANNOT CONTROL YOURSELVES HAVE BEEN ISOLATED FOR EVERYONE'S PROTECTION.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS... THEY'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THEM... YOU ALL WILL.
BUT YOU WILL NOT DO SO ALONE.
BUT WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US? ARE WE GONNA STAY LIKE THIS? FOREVER?
I DON'T KNOW, CHARLES...
...BUT I SWEAR TO YOU I'M GOING TO FIND OUT. AND IF A CURE EXISTS...
I'LL DIE TRYING TO FIND IT.

THE "RABBIT HOLE." STATE OF THE ART SAFE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
10:40 P.M.
THE PAPERWORK ON THIS THING IS GONNA SUCK BIG TIME.
THAT'S A JOKE IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT THEY SOUND LIKE.
IF I WANT TO LAUGH, I'LL LOOK AT THE D.E.O.'S SUCCESS RATE FOR LAST YEAR, AGENT CHASE.
ENOUGH. LITTLE FALLS IS LOCKED DOWN, YES?
YES. THANKS TO SUPERMAN. HE MANAGED TO ROUND UP THE METAS AND CONVINCE THEM TO COOL OUT. WAIT FOR HELP.
HE'S A FINE AMERICAN. HOW MANY TOTAL?
THIRTY-FIVE...
OUT OF 34,126 RESIDENTS. THAT'S ONE IN EVERY THOUSAND.
I DID THE MATH, CAMERON. SO LONG AS THE SITUATION IS CONTAINED—
THE METAS ARE CONTAINED. THE SITUATION IS NOT. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
WHAT IS THAT? WHAT THE HELL AM I LOOKING AT?
BDEEP
THAT'S THE UNITED STATES VIA SATELLITE, AS OF FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.


THAT'S ONE IN EVERY ONE THOUSAND AMERICANS EXPLODING WITH UNCONTROLLABLE META-HUMAN POWERS AT A RATE OF ONE EVERY FIVE SECONDS.
IT'S THE END OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT IN THIS COUNTRY.
YOU ASKED ME THIS MORNING IF THE UNITED STATES WAS UNDER ATTACK, MISTER PRESIDENT.
DO THE MATH.
SEEDS
JOE KELLY
writer
TOM RANEY
guest penciller
WALDEN WONG
inker
DINA GOINS
colorist
COMICRAFT
letters
TOM PALMER jr
associate editor
EDDIE BERGANZA
editor
NEXT MONTH:
THE HARVEST BEGINS
SUPERMAN CREATED BY:
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DC IN DEMAND

03.03

dccomics.com
keyword: DC COMICS on AOL

This Month's Cover by...
DAVID BULLOCK

Next Month in...

Action Comics #802

The Harvest begins! The consequences of the sudden increase in the meta-human population come into play as Superman must discover the real nature of this new threat. By Joe Kelly and the guest art team Tom Derenick, Bob Petrecca and Norm Rapmund.

HUMAN DEFENSE CORPS #1 (May 2003) When hostile factions from *beyond* land, sea or air threaten the DC Universe, the U.S. government calls in the HUMAN DEFENSE CORPS – ordinary joes, ten thousand strong, trained for extraordinary combat. Private Montgomery Kelly is just one "boy next door" among the band of brothers fighting alien autocrats and dimensional despots, and writer **Ty Templeton** (BATMAN ADVENTURES) and artists **Clement Sauvé** (JLA/JSA SECRET FILES AND ORIGINS) and **Juan Vlasco** (IMPULSE) want *you* to enlist in this six-issue war series unlike any other!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

H-E-R-O #2

Dial up this exciting second issue of this new ongoing series! Jerry discovers the life of a super-hero isn't all it's cracked up to be... and it may have deadly consequences!

JLA: SCARY MONSTERS #1 (OF 6)

An all-new JLA miniseries! The JLA square off against the ancient spirits that haunt a resort community constructed on an Indian burial ground! Can the JLA avoid being transformed into monsters themselves?

JSA #46

Part 1 of the 5-part "Princes of Darkness" storyline – leading up to the extra-sized issue #50! The Mordru/Obsidian arc begins as the villains launch an assault against Doctor Fate and the JSA!

SMALLVILLE #1

The hit TV show gets its own bimonthly series! On a camping trip Pete pushes Clark to test the limits of his abilities. Also included is an in-depth interview with series star Tom Welling, a visit to the Smallville set, and the first part of an episode guide to the first season!

MADE IN "HONG KONG"

You all know about Japanese manga ... but have you ever heard of manhua? These Chinese comics – featuring intense action, swirling swords, and a blend of beautifully painted panels with amazingly rendered black and white linework and computer color – so mesmerized editor Andy Helfer that he has signed legendary Chinese artist Tony Wong on the first-ever Hong Kong-produced graphic novel created specifically for an American audience. Wong and writer Doug Moench collaborate to set Batman on the trail of a deadly group of Hong Kong hackers. The BATMAN: HONG KONG hardcover crosses international waters this summer!

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/dcindemand right now!

KEYS TO "IGNITION"

If you haven't caught up with THE FLASH lately, we've got the fast track on FLASH #201. Writer Geoff Johns has the DCU offices keyed up over "Ignition," a jumping-on arc where the darker, criminal element in Keystone City forces The Fastest Man Alive to get a life – i.e., a new secret identity! Details on who and why are still a blur, but expect Geoff and new artist Alberto Dose (*Spider-Man: Tangled Web*) to keep you up to speed starting in August!

KNIGHT LIGHT

Long has he walked in shadows, but is there a place for the Dark Knight when darkness is banished from his streets? World renowned storytellers the Pander Bros. join forces with co-writer Mark Paniccia (*Bulletproof Monk*) to transform Gotham into a CITY OF LIGHT. The eight – issue miniseries illuminates shelves next Fall.

WHERE THERE'S T.H.U.N.D.E.R....

Hot on the heels of our T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES, we've uncovered the formation of a new team sanctioned to prevent the rise of Alphahumans. The well-known code names of operatives like Lightning, No-Man and Dynamo remain the same; but the faces have changed. Writer Marc Andreyko (*Torso*) teams up with brothers Max and Sebastian Fiumara to kick off the new monthly T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS series with a boom in June!

THE FIRST ONE'S FREE, KID...

The Batman Animated-inspired GOTHAM ADVENTURES may be over, but the adventure continues! Stop by your favorite comics shop Saturday, May 3 for the second annual Free Comic Book Day and get a free copy of BATMAN ADVENTURES #1. For more info, check out www.freecomicbookday.com.

– your MOLE at 1700

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